

weavers, rikshaw pullers, etc. Improvement in quality of employment and conditions of work of unorganised workers has been and continues to be a matter of prime concern for the Government.

As regards fresh policy initiatives the Central Government have enacted the building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 to protect the interest of workers engaged in construction industry which constitutes the second largest single activity, after agriculture employing unorganised workers. Agenda for the year 1997-98 includes continued efforts to gear up and augment the existing measures and a new measure of bringing in comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers numbering about 200 million.

Statement

S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Total Workers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29,963,648
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	399,782
3.	Assam	8,088,935
4.	Bihar	27,777,071
5.	Goa	412,736
6.	Gujarat	16,620,519
7.	Haryana	5,103,470
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2,214,379
9.	Karnataka	18,886,798
10.	Kerala	9,146,118
11.	Madhya Pradesh	23,340,485
12.	Maharashtra	33,910,366
13.	Manipur	774,904
14.	Meghalaya	757,322
15.	Mizoram	337,345
16.	Nagaland	516,237
17.	Orissa	11,882,762
18.	Punjab	6,261,989
19.	Rajasthan	17,104,372
20.	Sikkim	168,721
21.	Tamil Nadu	24,194,343
22.	Tripura	858,517
23.	Uttar Pradesh	44,799,280
24.	West Bengal	21,914,774
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	98,901
26.	Chandigarh	224,294
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	73,739
28.	Daman & Diu	38,224
29.	Delhi	2,980,461
30.	Lakshadweep	13,664
31.	Pondicherry	267,214
Total		314,131,370

Source : Census, 1991

Gold Reserve

5039. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the position of Gold Reserve in the country as on December, 1996;

(b) the annual consumption of gold in the country;

(c) the quantity and value of the gold imported during 1996; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the gold reserve of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : (a) Gold Reserve of the Reserve Bank of India as at the end December 1996 stood at 397.5 tonnes, equivalent to Rs. 14274 crores.

(b) There is no official estimates of the consumption of gold in the country. The World Gold Council has estimated the annual gold consumption in India at 477 tonnes in 1995.

(c) The quantity of gold imported during 1996 was 297.79 tonnes, valued at Rs. 15458.28 crores at the annual average price prevailed at the Mumbai Market.

(d) The liberalised Gold Import Scheme allows import of gold by Non-Resident Indians and permits imports by MMTC and SBI for delivery of such gold in India to the returning Non-Resident Indians and against Special Import Licences. This Scheme aims at improving the availability of gold imported through licit channels and on payment of custom duty in foreign exchange.

M.R.T.S. Project

5040. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial institutions have refused to finance MRTS project in Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to meet this expenditure; and

(c) by when the project is proposed to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Because of long term nature of loan and low returns, the financial institutions in India did not show interest in the project.

(b) The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 4860 crores at April, 1996 prices. The financing plan of the project is as under :

(i) equity contribution of Government of India and Government of NCT of Delhi @ 15% each of total cost of the project.

(ii) OECF (Japan) Loan – approx. 56% of total cost of the project